

Fact Sheet

Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project and the Vision of the Bay Area in 2020

- The Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project (“Project”) is a regional planning effort of the Bay Area’s five Regional Agencies (Association of Bay Area Governments, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and Regional Water Quality Control Board) and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, a multi-stakeholder coalition representing the business, environmental and social equity communities.
- The Project, from its outset, identified three goals:
 1. **Create a smart growth land use vision for the Bay Area** to minimize sprawl, provide adequate and affordable housing, improve mobility, protect environmental quality, and preserve open space.
 2. **Identify and obtain regulatory changes and incentives** needed to accomplish these objectives.
 3. **Develop 20-year land use and transportation projections** based on the vision and the likely impact of the new incentives- projection that will in turn guide the infrastructure investments of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and other regional partners.
- **Visioning Process:** Over 2,000 participants engaged in public workshops in each of the nine Bay Area counties. (Contra Costa County presented its own “Shaping our Future” second round workshop.) Participants, representing a broad spectrum of community interests, learned about planned land use patterns and their expected cumulative impacts. City and county elected official and staff participation was an important ingredient of the public process.
- The workshop process produced a narrative description of the smart growth vision, a conceptual map of this vision, and a set of 20-year job and housing growth numbers.
- The narrative Smart Growth Vision (adopted by the Smart Growth Steering Committee on August 21, 2002) will be used to show regional agencies and the state legislature one example of the kind of Bay Area that could exist if regulatory changes and fiscal incentives aimed at helping the region grow smarter are secured.
- The jobs and housing numbers generated by the public visioning exercise will be used by ABAG staff as a **starting point** for the development of policy-based Projections as compared to traditional trends-based Projections.
- The development of policy-based Projections will include review and comment by cities and counties and other interested organizations prior to the document being formally considered for adoption by the ABAG Executive Board in early 2003.
- **Next Steps:** If a set of policy-based Projections is formally adopted by the ABAG Executive Board, the document will have the following applicability:
 1. It will underscore the Bay Area’s commitment to growing in a smarter way and increase the likelihood that regulatory changes and incentives can be obtained at the state level.
 2. It will form the basis of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s 2004 Regional Transportation Plan, thereby beginning to influence transportation funding decisions, which in turn could begin to impact future growth patterns.
 3. It will influence the plans of other regional agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
 4. ABAG will use the policy-based Projections to determine, over the next 25 years, if the Bay Area is moving towards a smarter land use pattern.
- How each jurisdiction throughout the Bay Area chooses to grow will continue to be entirely a local decision. The Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project will not affect cities’ and counties’ local land use authority.

September 11, 2002

